

App. No.: 10/788,933

38. The method of Claim 33 wherein the optical signal has a specific wavelength and modulation format.

39. The method of Claim 37 wherein the variable reflectors are electrically variable Bragg's grating reflectors containing liquid crystal materials.

40. The method of Claim 37 wherein the electrodes are fabricated near the variable reflectors.

41. The method of Claim 35 wherein the waveguide is coupled to at least one optical coupler.

42. The method of Claim 35 wherein the waveguide is coupled to at least one optical circulator.

II. Remarks

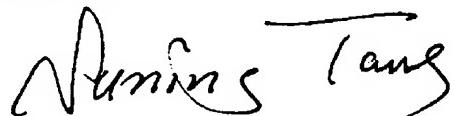
Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims are patentable over Sutherland et al. and the other cited references. Sutherland, for example, discloses a switchable polymer-dispersed liquid crystal material and device. According to Sutherland, the electrically tuned device may cause phase delay to incident light. According to the present invention, similar devices may be used, in one embodiment, to variably reflect an optical signal. However, the time delay of the optical signal is caused primarily by the distance traveled by the optical signal, which is dependent on the placement of the variable reflectors along the optical path. Similar arguments apply to the other cited references.

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III. Conclusion

In view of these remarks and amendments, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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